

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2018

Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Secretary Rex W. Tillerson
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Secretary Tillerson,

We urge the administration to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation granted to Nepalese nationals living in the United States after the devastating April 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 individuals and left many thousands more homeless and displaced. Shortly after the earthquake, 45 U.S. Representatives signed a letter requesting a TPS designation for these nationals, and a designation was promptly granted. As Nepal continues to rebuild, we request an extension of the current designation before it expires on June 24, 2018

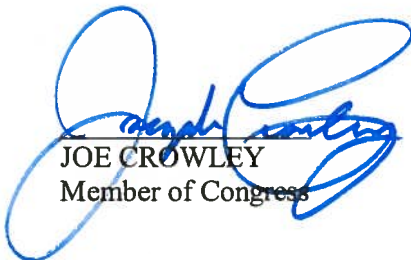
The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 not only resulted in a substantial loss of life, but also devastated Nepal's infrastructure—destroying large swaths of the country from the capital of Kathmandu to the rural areas. The earthquake destroyed more than half a million homes, and forced nearly 650,000 families to seek shelter. Even today, as the country works to rebuild its infrastructure and restore housing to previous levels, the situation remains tenuous. As recently as last summer, more than two-thirds of those affected were still living in temporary shelters. An extension of the TPS designation for Nepalese nationals in the United States would help the Nepalese government focus limited resources on rebuilding efforts and prevent individuals from being returned to uncertain and potentially unsafe conditions.

As you know, TPS is designed to grant protection for foreign nationals living in the United States when extraordinary circumstances make it difficult for them to return to their home countries. Current law dictates that TPS may be granted when there are, "conditions in the foreign state that prevent... nationals of the state from returning to the state in safety." We believe that the lingering damage in Nepal and the challenges its government faces meet these criteria, and that extending the TPS designation would help the Nepalese government restore housing, safety, and stability to its people.

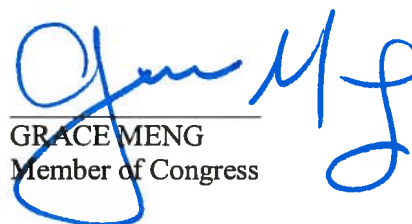
Nepalese nationals in the United States are living in a state of uncertainty, not knowing whether they will be able to safely return home. Given the strong support that we and our colleagues expressed in our previous letters, we urge you to act compassionately and allow these nationals to remain in the United States until the conditions in their home country are further improved.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JOE CROWLEY
Member of Congress



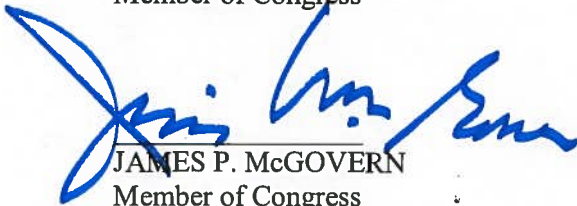
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



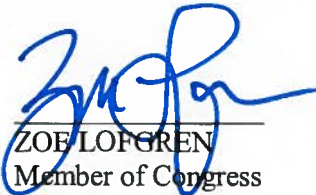
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



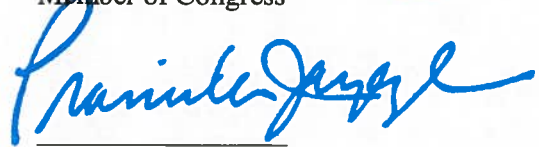
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
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NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
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PRAMILA JAYAPAL
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ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



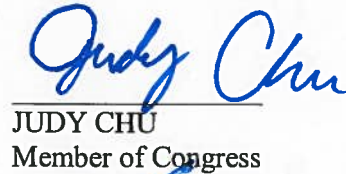
CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



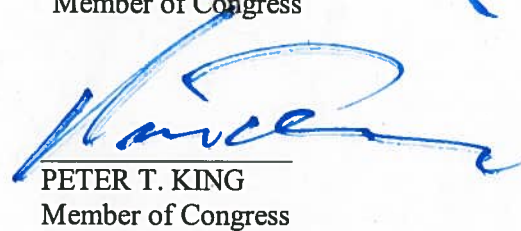
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



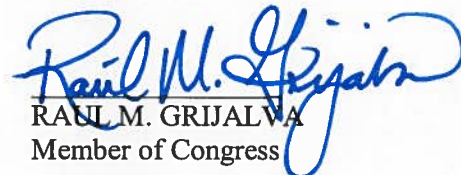
MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



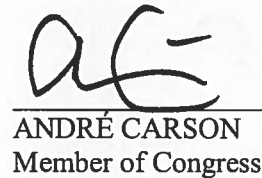
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



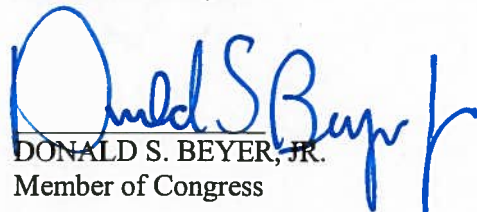
RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



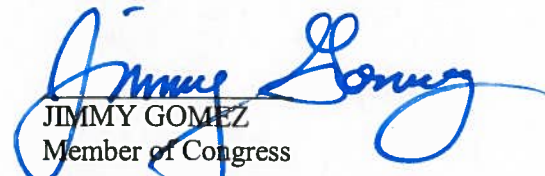
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN
Member of Congress



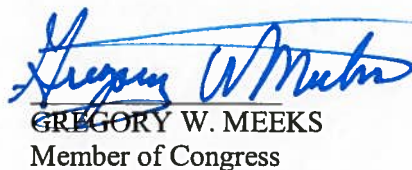
ANDRE CARSON
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JIMMY GOMEZ
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Nepal TPS Renewal

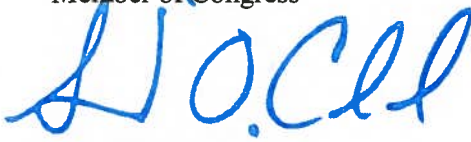
March 29, 2018

Page 4



COLLEEN HANABUSA

Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL

Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON

Member of Congress